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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated October 31, 2007. Claims 14-26 are pending, with claims 14, 19 and 22 being in independent form. Claims 1-13 were previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 18, 20, 21 and 26 have been amended to correct obvious informalities therein, without introducing new subject matter and new issues. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is requested.

Claims 14-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,922,255 to Tomida in view of Watanabe (US 2002-0122215 A1).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 14, 19 and 22 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application relates to various improvements devised by applicant to a network facsimile machine.

An aspect of the application includes registering for each of a plurality of registered user codes, one or more corresponding subject names associated with the registered user code, determining whether a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified, and automatically specifying one of the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted. Each of independent claims 14 and 22 addresses such features, as well as additional features.

Another aspect of the application includes determining whether a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified, determining whether a mail address is registered for the specific user code of the current operator, if it is determined that the specific user code of

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the current operator has been specified, and automatically specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code.

Tomida, as understood by Applicant, proposes an Internet facsimile device wherein e-mail data is transmitted along with a header including a title selected by a user using the facsimile device. In the Internet facsimile device proposed by Tomida, any one of a plurality of one-touch keys can be associated with a corresponding title. The user can designate the title by depressing one of the one-touch keys.

Tomida does not disclose or suggest, however, determining whether *a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus*, has been specified (independent claims 14, 19 and 22 of the present application).

It is contended in the Office Action that the one-touch key of Tomida is equated with a specific user code.

However, anyone using the facsimile device can depress a specific one-touch key to designate the corresponding title. Accordingly, the depressed one-touch key in the facsimile device of Tomida is not *"specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus"* (independent claims 14, 19 and 22 of the present application).

Tomida simply does not teach or suggest use of user codes to differentiate any operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus.

Likewise, since the one-touch key of Tomida is not specific to any particular operator

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(but can be used by anyone to designate the same title), Tomida, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, also fails to disclose or suggest registering for each of a plurality of registered user codes, one or more corresponding *subject names associated with the registered user code* (independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application), and/or determining whether a *mail address is registered for the specific user code of the current operator* (independent claim 19 of the present application).

Further, in the system proposed by Tomida, the operator must depress a one-touch key to specify the corresponding title to be included in the transmission.

Therefore, Tomida, contrary to the contention in the Office Action, does not disclose or suggest automatically specifying one of the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application), and/or automatically specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (independent claim 19 of the present application).

Watanabe, as understood by Applicant, proposes a facsimile apparatus wherein one or more items of account information can be registered in an internal memory of the facsimile apparatus, one of these items of account information is selected for use in authentication processing. For example, a user may be required to specify a user name and password before the user can use the facsimile apparatus.

However, Watanabe says nothing about using user identity or identification to select a title or subject name for a transmission specified by the user to be transmitted.

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Therefore, the combination of Tomida and Watanabe does not disclose or suggest automatically specifying one of the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application).

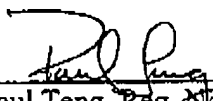
Likewise, the combination of Tomida and Watanabe does not disclose or suggest automatically specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (independent claim 19 of the present application).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 14, 19 and 22, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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